



CITY OF ATLANTA

SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
MAYOR

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June 24, 2006

Council President Lisa Borders
Members of the Atlanta City Council
City Hall 2nd Floor Suite 2900
55 Trinity Avenue, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30335

Dear President Borders and Members of Council:

I hereby return with my line item veto appropriations made in two ordinances by two amendments. The amendments that I am vetoing are:

1. Changes to appropriations made in 06-O-1171 by Amendment #5 (Moore #1) amending the 2006/2007 budget by providing a 3.5% increase to Fire sworn personnel for a total of \$1,868,714 and reducing the \$592,954,168 budget by a corresponding amount; and
2. Changes to appropriations made in 06-O-1334 by Amendment #2 (Moore #1) amending the personnel ordinance to change the pay schedule for sworn Fire personnel by increasing said pay schedule by 3.5% .

These items are vetoed under the authority granted to me by the City of Atlanta Charter, Section 2-403, which states: "the mayor may veto any item or items of any ordinance or resolution making appropriations".

It is my firm belief that the Atlanta City Council and I have developed a positive partnership over the years as we have jointly made tremendous strides to move our City forward. As partners we have faced numerous obstacles, discussed difficult alternatives to major problems, and ultimately agreed upon solutions that have enhanced the confidence our taxpayers and other stakeholders expect from Atlanta City government.

In order to reach a final determination on matters that affect the operation of City government, my standard process is to review analysis, data and research before making a recommendation. I reviewed the information concerning compensation for sworn police officers, sworn fire fighters and other city employees in great detail before making my recommendation.

My recommendation to increase the compensation for sworn police officers will allow the City of Atlanta to bring these employees to approximately 95% of the market pay for other sworn police officers in their industry. This compensation increase, along with future increases, will enable us to recruit and retain more officers; thereby keeping our police force strong and keeping our city safe.

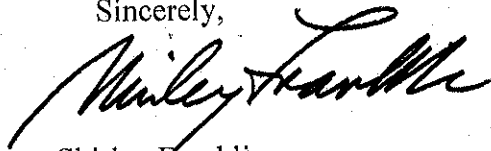
We can not afford to lose our momentum.

Our sworn firefighters are well trained and dedicated to serving the public. The retention rate in our Department of Fire and Rescue is excellent and so is the recruitment. Compensation for sworn fire fighters is slightly below the market pay with respect to their industry, however, not as far below as our sworn police officers are with respect to their industry. I have stated before and I will state again; it is my intention to work with the City Council to bring sworn fire fighters up to their industry pay standard before the end of my term. The 3.5% pay increase for sworn firefighters, as proposed by amendments to the two ordinances (#06-O-1171 and #06-O-1334) adopted by the City Council on June 19, 2006, will accelerate them to approximately 98% of the market pay for other sworn fire fighters in their industry. This proposed pay increase would place sworn fire fighters considerably ahead of the pace to improve pay for sworn police officers. I do not consider such a decision to be prudent or wise.

I have previously presented my best thoughts on the overall \$592,954,168.00 budget and can not identify line items from which to deduct \$1,868,714.00 for the proposed pay increase for sworn fire fighters.

Based on the rationale as outlined in this letter, I urge you to sustain my vetoes of the line item appropriation changes as adopted in the two amendments to Ordinance # 06-O-1171 and Ordinance # 06-O-1334 respectfully.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shirley Franklin", written in a cursive style.

Shirley Franklin